

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of all the claims is now presented:

Claims 1 to 8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Withdrawn).

A method for preparing an amino acid of the phosphoglycerate family, which comprises using a microorganism strain as claimed in claim 1 in a fermentation mixture; and removing the amino acid produced from the fermentation mixture.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the microorganism strain is grown in a fermenter as a culture selected from the group consisting of a continuous culture, a batch culture, and a fed-batch culture.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 9,
wherein a carbon source is continuously metered in
during fermentation.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the carbon source used is selected from the
group consisting of a sugar, a sugar alcohol and an organic
acid.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the carbon source is metered in, in a way so as
to ensure that a content of the carbon source in a fermenter
is kept in a range from 0.1 - 50 g/l, during fermentation.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 13,
wherein the carbon source in the fermenter is kept in
a range from 0.5 - 10 g/l, during fermentation.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 9,
wherein a nitrogen source is used and is selected from
the group consisting of ammonia, an ammonium salt and a
protein hydrolysate.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn).

The method as claimed in claim 9,
wherein fermentation is carried out under aerobic
growth conditions.

Claim 17. (New).

A genetically modified microorganism strain suitable
for fermentive production of
O-acetyl-L-serine, N-acetyl-L-serine, L-cysteine,
LL-cystine and producible from a starting strain, having an
increased expression of an yfiK-gene or of a gene of an yfiK
homologue.

Claim 18. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 17, which is selected from the group consisting of a fungus, a yeast and a bacterium.

Claim 19. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 18, wherein the bacterium is a member of the family *Enterobacteriaceae*.

Claim 20. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 19, wherein the member of the family *Enterobacteriaceae* is a member of the species *E. coli*.

Claim 21. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 17, in which the copy number of the *yfiK* gene is increased or in

which expression of said yfiK gene was increased by using a suitable promoter or a translation signal.

Claim 22. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 21, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of the constitutive GAPDH promoter of the gapA gene and each of the following inducible promoters: lac, tac, trc, lambda, ara and tet.

Claim 23. (New).

The microorganism strain as claimed in claim 20, in which the increased expression of the yfiK-gene is based on an increase in the copy number of the yfiK gene in a pACYC vector.

Claim 24. (New).

A plasmid which comprises an yfiK-gene with a promoter and a genetic element for the deregulation of cysteine

metabolism coding for a serine O-acetyl transferase being subject to a reduced feedback inhibition by L-cysteine.

Claim 25. (New) .

A method for preparing a microorganism strain, which comprises introducing a plasmid as claimed in claim 24 into a starting strain.